Compensation to Indians on account of Gulf crisis

398. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of people have returned from Kuwait and due to the Gulf crisis in 1990-91;

(b) if so, the total number of those returned;

(c) whether any compensation has been given to them;

(d) if so, what is the total amount disbursed;

(e) what is the basis for deciding the quantum of compensation; and

(f) from which date onwards Government have started receiving applications for compensation, how many applications have been received next day and from which date onwards the compensation has been disbursed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1,63,000.

(c) Claims for compensation have been filed by Indian nationals/companies on the United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC). So far, compensation has been received for Category 'B' claims and is being disbursed.

(d) Out of a total of 258 Indian 'B' claims (injury/death as a direct result of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait) the UNCC has released payment of US $642,500 in respect of 167 Category 'b' claims; the remainder of 'B' claims were either rejected / found to be duplicate or transferred to Category 'C' by the UNCC. In respect of 28 'B' claims, additional medical & legal documents were required to be produced to the UNCC.

In addition, the UNCC has approved payment for 60,320 Indian 'A' claims (ex-gratia payment for departure from Kuwait/Iraq), but the actual payment in respect of these 'A' claims is still awaited from the UNCC.

(e) claims are required to be filed in the following six categories stipulated by the UNCC:

Type of Claim	Description
Category 'A'	US $ 2500 per individual or US$5000 per family if claimant is applying under other categories as well; otherwise US $4000 per individual, US$8000 per family.
Category 'B'	Death or injuries as a direct result of the Iraqi aggression.
Category 'C'	Personal property losses/ damages upto $100,000.
Category 'D'	Personal property losses/ damages exceeding $100,000.
Category 'E'	Corporate claims.
Category 'F'	Government claims.

The UNCC is exclusively responsible to scrutinise and examine these claims and award payments.

(f) Filing of claim applications commenced immediately after the Gulf War was over in March, 1991 on the forms introduced by Government of India. However, these forms were substituted by the UNCC forms with effect from July, 1992 and all those claimants who had applied on the Government of India forms were required to reapply on the UNCC forms. This substitution was widely publicised.

As on 1.1.95 (the final extended deadline stipulated by the UNCC for receipt of claims in individual Categories A, B, C & D), a total of 1,45,759 claims in all categories had been filed with the UNCC. After 1.1.95, 931 more claims

were forwarded as late claims to the UNCC.

Whereas the UNCC has stipulated 1.9.95 as the final date for receipt of late claims in individual categories filed after 1.1.95 on "strong and compelling" reasons which were required to be justified by a documentary evidence to be furnished by each claimant, the final date for receipt of Corporate claims (Category 'E') and Government claims (Category 'F') has been extended to 1.1.96.

The only payment of US$642,500 for 167 successful Indian 'B' claimant was released by the UNCC in November, 1995, the disbursement of which is currently being made by the four Banks designated to handle Gulf War claims.

Demand of Post Offices in Villages of Gudda Duistrict of Bihar

399. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Gudda district of Bihar which had demanded a post office;

(b) the number of post offices which will be opened in the various villages in Gudda district of Bihar during the current year;

(c) in what manner this huge demand is proposed to be met; and

(d) what steps are being taken to ensure that each of these villages have a post office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Six Gram Panchayats in Gudda district of Bihar had demanded a Post Office.

(b) No Post Office is planned to be opened in Gudda district of Bihar during the curent year.

(c) and (d) Post Offices are opened under the Annual Plan Progressively, subject to fulfilment of departmental norms and availability of Plan funds.

[The Deputy Chairman *in the Chair*]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

I. Report and Accounts (1994-95) of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu and related papers

II. Memorandum of understanding (1995-96) between the Govt. of India and Modern Food Industries (India) Limited

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (Madam) I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) (a) Annual Report and accounts of the Paddy Processing Research Centre, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, for the year 1994-95, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.

(b) Review by Government on the working of the above Centre.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8307/95]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of India (Ministry of Food Processing Industries) and Modern Food Industries (India) Limited, for the year 1995-96).

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-8160/95]

Production Sharing contract between Govt. of India and Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd. and Shell India Production Development, B.V.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLIUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SATISH SHARMA): (Madam) I lay on the Table a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Production Sharing Contract between the